

GUIDE TO HOUSE SURGEONS IN THE SURGICAL UNIT. By G. J. Fraenkel, F.R.C.S., F.R.A.C.S., and J. Ludbrook, F.R.C.S., F.R.A.C.S. Third Edition. (Pp. 99. 12s. 6d.) London: William Heinemann Medical Books Ltd., 1964.

THIS concise little book of 99 pages can be read without difficulty at a sitting and then slipped into a white coat pocket for further reference. It is written with the house surgeon primarily in view, but it could be read with advantage by members of the entire surgical team.

Attention to its very practical teaching could save the new surgical house officer many of the common embarrassing and often dangerous pitfalls. While each surgical unit differs in minor details of investigation and therapy, the principles outlined by the authors are still applicable.

The new house surgeon will find the sound advice on administration and the practical approach to intravenous therapy particularly useful. The second half of the book deals well with the routine care of all the common admissions to a general surgical unit. Although one might not agree with the "five-day rule" for antibiotics, the rather prolonged drainage of mastectomy wounds or routine emergency prostatectomy, in general this is the finest practical handbook I have seen.

It is a "must" for the side room of each surgical unit and should be handed to each new house surgeon with his first white coat.

G. W. J.

EXFOLIATIVE CYTOLOGY IN GYNÆCOLOGICAL PRACTICE. By Erica G. Wachtel, M.D. (Pp. xiii + 203; figs. 188. 45s.) London: Butterworth, 1964.

THE recent development of exfoliative cytology in this country and the increasing numbers being instructed in this subject will ensure many readers for this book. This will be especially so of one written by Dr. Wachtel, who has no less than seventeen years' experience of vaginal cytology. There can be few, if any, in these islands with more experience in this field.

Ten chapters cover the techniques of taking and staining smears and the cytological patterns associated with inflammatory and malignant disease. Radiation changes are also dealt with. A welcome feature is the emphasis placed on the application of vaginal cytology to gynaecological endocrinology, as this aspect is poorly covered in most other text books of exfoliative cytology. One chapter is devoted to the diagnosis of malignant disease of the genital tract. In this section some will perhaps object to the principle of the confirmation of positive smears from a clinically normal cervix by random biopsies. Certainly some discussion of the value of cone biopsy in these patients would not have been out of place.

The text is copiously illustrated and is written in pleasant and lucid English. The book is intended as an introduction to the basic principles of vaginal cytology and for this can be well recommended.

J. H. R.

AN INTRODUCTION TO DIAGNOSTIC NEUROLOGY, Volume III. By Stewart Renfrew. (Pp. viii + 202. 12s. 6d.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1964.

IN the previous two pocket-size volumes (reviewed in an earlier *ULSTER MEDICAL JOURNAL*) Dr. Renfrew evolved some interesting, provocative and original views on the teaching of neurology to medical students. Their value, I feel, lay in the effect on the teacher. The same is true of this volume, which is designed to give the student the opportunity of exercising his brains. Questions are set out and each answer is followed by further questions eventually leading to a full exposition of a clinical problem. About one hundred and fifty problems are outlined and one thousand questions are posed. It would only be of value to the student as a conclusion to the previous two volumes for there are certain conventions used which are unique to the author. So it is three volumes for the teacher, and the student (Glaswegian excepted) could browse over them in the library.

L. J. H.